



Religious Education at Our Lady of Dolours encompasses and supports the Archdiocesan vision for Religious Education. This vision encompasses two dimensions of Religious Education. The first being the teaching and learning of Religion, and the second being the promotion of the Religious Life and Catholic Identity of the school community.

### Vision

Our Lady of Dolours is a Christ-centred school that believes in developing the unique faith journey of each individual. We are committed to the spirit of our vision and strive to teach, learn, think and act with the Compassion, Justice and Wisdom of Christ so we can fully live, love and learn in communion with our ever-changing world.

### Policy Statement

The purpose of Religious Education at Our Lady of Dolours School is to nurture the Catholic faith and its teachings in our children. We seek to help them to live this faith and encourage them to develop a better relationship with God and others around them. Central to our work is the approved curriculum that teaches the essential tenets of the Catholic faith to students, as well as complementary opportunities for prayer and worship, which lie at the heart of our faith. We endeavour to promote and encourage these together with the skills and attitudes necessary to live out the Christian message in the modern world.

We believe Religious Education should promote the development of the whole child and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities that lie in their future. Religious Education is delivered through the implementation of the curriculum and is also fostered through the Christian conduct of staff and students, as well as links with home, Parish and the local community. We believe Religious Education must be woven into the fabric of school life and Catholic Perspectives are explicitly taught across all subject areas in order to promote global awareness and equip students to make a positive impact in our world.

### Procedures

#### In implementing this policy, Our Lady of Dolours will:

- Acknowledge the family as the first place where faith can be nurtured and support the provision of a variety of situations for education in faith development.
- Mission to one another through our partnership and sense of welcome we provide to all families. They are invited to feel like they can participate in the essence and spirit of the school motto - Living, Loving and Learning with Christ.
- Facilitate the Pastoral Parent Program as a means of creating supportive environment for parents
- Promote the principles of Catholic social teachings across the curriculum and in conjunction with social action initiatives.
  - Solidarity: standing beside all of humankind by promoting the rights and dignity of others through our actions and ethical decision making;
  - Human Dignity;
  - Common Good;
  - Subsidiarity: whereby people closest and most affected by issues and concerns in the community participate in the decisions that affect their lives, and;
  - Care for our Common Home
- Provide students with opportunities to reflect on and address contemporary religious and social justice issues
- Support the following Catholic organisations in their on-going causes
  - Caritas
  - Catholic Missions
  - St Vincent de Paul
  - Archdiocesan Catholic Foundation and Mary MacKillop Fund
  - Parish Social Justice Group – Schools 4 Schools

- Provide opportunities for students to develop awareness of and to support these missions through a variety of fundraising and educative initiatives

### **In implementing the Religious Education Curriculum, Our Lady of Dolours will:**

- Provide a means for classroom teachers to develop and teach from an accredited program that has been developed in accordance with the approved Arch Diocesan Religious Education curriculum
- Support the implementation of the Religious Education curriculum through relevant and appropriate resourcing that suit the developmental learning abilities of students.
- Provide appropriate professional development for staff to ensure provision of the complementary dimensions of Religious Education
- Ensure that teachers of Religious Education will be appropriately accredited according to Arch Diocesan requirements
- Allocate two and a half hours each week to implement the Religious Education curriculum
- Carry out ongoing moderation of the curriculum with teaching staff.
- Provide support for teachers to embed Catholic Perspectives across the curriculum
- Support teachers in their understanding Recontextualised Catholic Perspective

### **Additionally, Our Lady of Dolours will:**

- Encourage the Religious Life of the school through prayer, liturgy and celebration through the following means
  - Whole school morning prayer
  - Daily classroom prayer
  - Weekly prayer assemblies
  - Attendance at Parish Mass each Term
  - Class Reconciliations with support of the Parish Priest
  - Whole school mass celebrations with support of the Parish Priest
  - Staff prayer at staff meetings and other occasions each term
  - Participation in children's masses each term
  - Have a yearly focus on each charism of Our Lady of Dolours, The Good Samaritans and St Benedict
  - Celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Dolours
  - Participate in Season of Creation and other initiatives that enhance the school's ability to bring to life the message of Laudato Sí
  - Class sustainability projects that are connected to Laudato Sí and stewardship of God's creation
- Support the Parish Sacramental Program and acknowledge and celebrate the sacramental journey of students
- Give meaning to the School Mission through weekly Kid in the Crest and summative KICKing Goals Awards to students
- Provide whole school meditative prayer practice each day

### **Associated Procedures**

- Religious Education Planning
- Religious Education Accreditation Requirements
- Staff Prayer
- Class Masses and Reconciliation
- Whole School Masses
- Parish Based Children's Mass
- Prayer Assembly
- Supporting Social Action and Justice Initiatives (Fundraising)
- Kid in the Crest Awards
- KICKing Goals Awards
- Christian Meditation
- Pastoral Parent Program
- Class projects to enhance our connection with living Laudato Sí
- Formation and education for the community around the messages of Laudato Sí

Reviewed: October 2020